

Adoptive parents are obliged to send an annual report on the child until he or she reaches the age of 18. The report, which must be certified by a competent authority, is sent to the MSALVTY, with a copy to the embassy of Cambodia in the adoptive parent's country. Adoptive parents are responsible for the expenses incurred for the child's passport and travel and in addition are required to give a donation to the MSALVTY for the benefit of Cambodian orphans (art. 6 of the document).

Information from the Embassy of the United States in Cambodia²

The Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh has posted information on adoption in Cambodia on its website. After a one-year moratorium, international adoptions resumed in March 2001. However, there has been little progress in addressing issues of fraud in connection with the process of adoption. On December 21, 2001, an immediate suspension of processing of adoption petitions for children from Cambodia was announced. The Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand, which had been processing Cambodian adoption cases, will no longer do so.

Information from the State Department³

The U.S. State Department makes information on foreign adoption available on a country-by-country basis on its website. The Cambodia page, updated February 15, 2002, states that the Department has decided to maintain the suspension of adoptions and has sent a joint (INS and State Department) senior-level task force to explore the possibility of establishing a special humanitarian program for certain families affected by the December 21 suspension.

Information from Adoption Agencies

The Alliance for Children maintains a program of adoption from Cambodia. Information on the process is posted on the organization's website.⁴ According to this organization, infants and children up to the age of 8 may be adopted; in some cases twins or other sibling pairs are available. Generally the children are well cared for in the orphanage with which the program has contacts. The children have been either abandoned or relinquished by their birth parents and are tested for Hepatitis B and HIV. The information on who is eligible to adopt, including age limits, matches what the Cambodian Ministry document states. Prospective parents are advised to apply the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service for advanced approval to be eligible to adopt from Cambodia, to satisfy the laws of their home state, to complete a home study by a licensed social worker, and to have all the documents required by Cambodia notarized. The agency states that preparing the home study and other documents and obtaining INS approval takes about three months, approval from the Cambodian government may take another one to three months, there is another two to four month wait from when the individual child is assigned, and one parent must go to Cambodia and stay about one week to complete the procedure. The agency also points out that most of those available for adoption are male.

² <http://usembassy.state.gov/cambodia/wwwb0007.htm>.

³ http://travel.state.gov/adoption_cambodia.html.

⁴ <http://www.allforchildren.org/cambodia.htm>.